meeting there expressly to look for it, but also drew a blank. The locality being quite near my home, I have been there in most recent years but never saw *E. pauperana* until 1978; nor have a I been able to rediscover it at Saffron Walden. It is probable that the insect has persisted at very low density in its old haunts and possibly the records for 1978 mark the start of an improvement in its numbers.

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Notes and Observations

EUPHYDRYAS AURINIA ROTT. — DISAPPEARANCE FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE. — Reading Dr. C. J. Luckens' recent interesting notes on *Euphydryas aurinia* Rott. in Britain (1978, *Ent. Rec.*, **90**: 108-112) prompts me to put on record the fate of this species in Monmouthshire where, over the years, I have known four separate colonies.

Fifty-two years ago the Marsh Fritillary was well-established at a spot only several hundred yards from the site of the new, recently-opened Gwent County Hall at Croesyceiliog, a village now absorbed into the new town of Cwmbran. This colony flourished in a boggy, lightly-wooded area but eventually succumbed to sporadic housing development prior to the 1939-45 war.

The other colonies known to me were all in the eastern part of the county. Near Wolvesnewton the butterfly flew in the moist open glades of a mixed deciduous wood and was fairly numerous in 1951. However, clearance of the woodland and replanting with conifers by the local landowner resulted in the disappearance of this colony shortly after that date.

At Pontysaeson in the Tintern area, in a small wooded valley where I had recorded 35 species of butterflies, including 6 fritillaries, there was a very strong and flourishing colony of *aurinia* which I had kept under observation for some 15 years until its destruction about 1969-70. In 1967 it was possible to see scores of these butterflies in flight at one time. It succumbed to forestry activities. This time it was spraying of the undergrowth with toxic herbicides which delivered the coup de grâce by destroying its foodplant *Scabiosa succisa* L. — and for that matter most other plants. Eyebright (*Euphrasia* sp.) grew along the nearby woodland track and here one could find the larvae of *Perizoma blandiata blandiata* (D. & S.),

a moth rare in Monmouthshire. This too was a casualty. Needless to say the site was replanted with the inevitable conifers.

Not very far away, in a small marshy meadow was another Marsh Fritillary colony known to a number of lepidopterists including, I believe, our Editor Mr. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt (1969, *Ent. Rec.*, **81**: 39-46) and Dr. C. G. M. de Worms. This colony, though small numerically, appeared to be in good shape in 1969 and its future seemed reasonably hopeful but soon afterwards this colony too was wiped out through overgrazing by ponies. Herbage that was not consumed was rolled-upon or completely trampled into the mud.

Flying in this same meadow with *aurinia* was the Burnet *Zygaena trifolii palustrella* Verity and this too has gone. As far as I am aware this species has not been recorded elsewhere in the county.

In recent years I have searched for the Marsh Fritillary both in its old haunts and in many new likely-looking localities but without success, and I have not heard reports of any sightings. It would appear therefore that the species has probably been lost to Monmouthshire through disturbance and destruction of its habitat due to building development, coniferisation of woodland, and in one instance through bad husbandry. — Dr. G. A. Neil Horton, Plas Newydd, Usk, Gwent.

Euphydryas aurinia Rott. (Marsh Fritillary). — In view of Dr. Luckens' paper (*Ent. Rec.*, **90**: 108-112), perhaps the following observations are of interest. In the spring of 1973 about 60 larvae were collected from numerous colonies on Bursdon Moor, Devon. 100% parasitoidism was found in the larvae, there being no way in which this could have occurred during captivity. During the early summer of 1976, several specimens were seen in the area of the Polytechnic, no more than one mile from the city centre of Leicester. — D. Hockin, Flexbury End, Poughill Road, Bude, Cornwall.

Cryptoblabes gnidiella (Milliere) (Lep.: Pyralidae) in Britain. — I have now bred this species in two consecutive years, and it seems probable that it is bivoltine, or even that it may breed in Britain. On 14.x.1976, I cut open a pomegranate containing a larva of this species, and found no evidence that the larva had entered the fruit proper, but it seemed to have confined itself to feeding on the remains of the flower. There was an exceedingly large amount of frass present for one larva, particularly since those which eat dry food usually produce little. Furthermore, I found two pupae — one in a cocoon of silk and frass, and which subsequently produced an imago, and one which had already emerged. This was presumably from an earlier generation, since I had had the fruit for some time, and had only observed one larva (before it pupated) and had bred no imagines. Another pomegranate from the same source was found to contain a larva which was only about two-thirds grown. It would seem